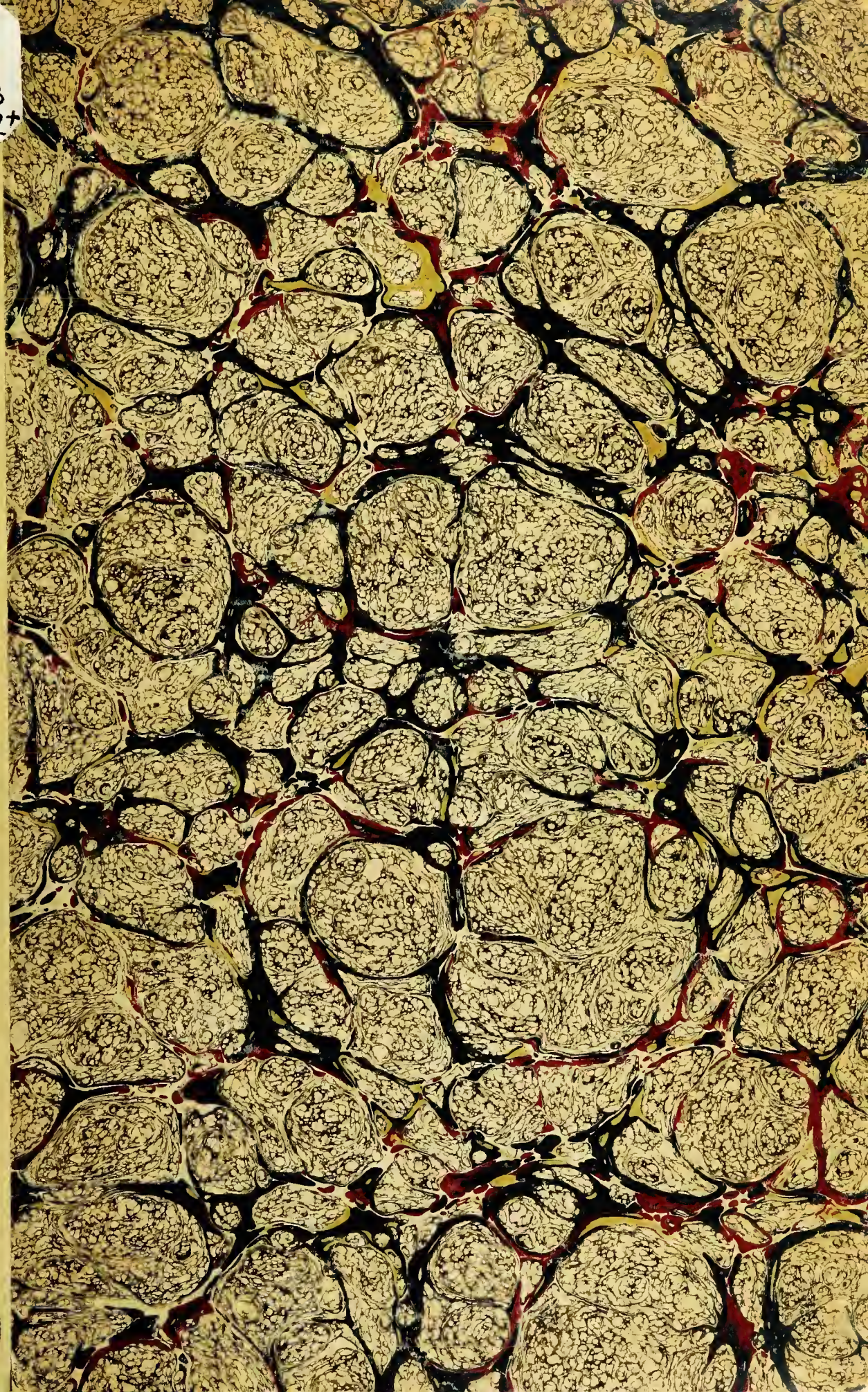
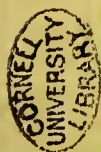


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Wilkes-Barre, the Diamond City.

1911.



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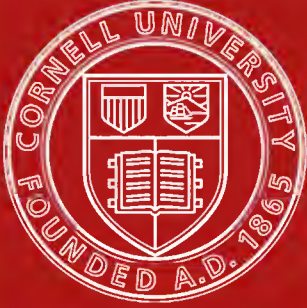
WILKES-BARRÉ



The Diamond City



ILLUSTRATING
FIVE YEARS'
PROGRESS.



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WILKES-BARRÉ

THE DIAMOND CITY

A Study of Its Remarkable Progress as
Indicated by Its Growth During
the Last Five Years

Published by the

WILKES-BARRÉ BOARD OF TRADE

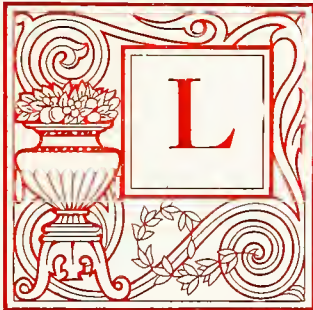
Compiled and Arranged by R. W. Ferrel, Secretary

April, 1911

✓

Wilkes-Barré, the Diamond City

Illustrating Five Years' Progress



LITERALLY as well as metaphorically there is but one Wilkes-Barré, and it is with the tale of the marvelous growth which this ancient and honorable city has enjoyed within the last five years that this publication has to do.

The unique name which the city bears it has worn since 1789, when Major John Durkee laid out the site for a party of Connecticut settlers and coined the name Wilkes-Barré. During the early years of its history the name was spelled and usually misspelled in many ways and for a long time the common usage was Wilkesbarre, this being officially sanctioned by the United States Geographical Board for the sake of brevity. Of late years, however, there has arisen the belief that Col. Barré, after whom the city was named jointly with Col. Wilkes, was entitled to as much recognition as Col. Wilkes and so the movement to have the name officially recognized as Wilkes-Barré grew in strength and this form of spelling became the common usage among the residents themselves. Col. Roosevelt, then President of the United States, came to Wilkes-Barré in 1905 and upon being made acquainted with the effort to have the name spelled in such manner as to do honor to both of the men after whom it was



Group of Residences Erected by Wilkes-Barre Lace Manufacturing Co. for Employees
River Street and Courtright Avenue

No Building here Shown is More than Five Years Old

named, set on foot an investigation which resulted in the United States Geographical Board finally recognizing and making official the spelling of the name as Wilkes-Barré.*

*Wilkes-Barre; city, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. (Not Wilkes Barre nor Wilkesbarre)—Decisions of the



Public School Building, Courtright Avenue

its insular possessions. The decisions of the Board are to be accepted by all the Departments of the Government as standard authority."

ORIGIN OF CITY'S NAME

The name Wilkes-Barré is a linking together of two surnames. Hon. John Wilkes and Hon. Isaac Barré were eminent Englishmen who saw justice in the demands of the American colonists as they were being presented to the mother country about the time Wilkes-Barré was founded. Their advocacy of the colonists' cause won for them the gratitude of the American patriots and so when Major Durkee, himself an ardent supporter of the colonists' demands, laid out the new town in the valley of Wyoming, considered by himself and the other settlers as being a part



Addition to Hazard Manufacturing Co. Plant
State and Ross Streets



C. Morgan's Sons' Retail Store
West Market Street

United States Geographical Board, July, 1908, to July, 1909. NOTE—This decision was a revision of a previous order making the official spelling Wilkesbarre. (The United States Geographical Board "passes on all unsettled questions concerning geographical names which arise in the Departments, as well as determining, changing and fixing place names within the United States and

Wilkes-Barré Leads in Building Growth

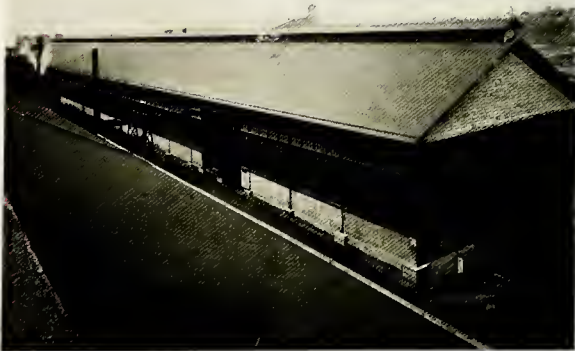


Public School Building, Grant and Dana Streets

of the Connecticut territory, he gave to it the name of these two friends of the colonists, Wilkes and Barré, and thus was coined the unique name Wilkes-Barré, which the city has since continued to bear.

The Revolution also had its effect on the naming of the county of which Wilkes-Barré is the county seat and principal city. A great territory was carved out of this then Western wilderness and created a county by an Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature of September 25, 1786, and was given the name of Luzerne, after the French nobleman, Chevalier de la Luzerne, whose services as French minister to the United States during the Revolution won for him this lasting recognition from a grateful people.*

*Anne Cesar de la Luzerne, generally known as the Chevalier de la Luzerne, withdrew from the French Army



Addition to Sheldon Axle Co. Plant
Conyngham Avenue

after having been successively Aide de Campe under the Duke de Broglie, Major General of Cavalry, and afterwards colonel of the Grenadiers of France and Knight (or Chevalier) of Malta. After giving up the Army he entered a diplomatic career and was sent in 1776 to the court of Maximilian Joseph, Elector of Bavaria, "where he remained two years, filling his responsible position with marked success. The value attached to his services during his stay at Munich, and his ability shown in conducting the negotiations relative to the Bavarian Succession



M. Heinz's Store, South Main Street

induced his being named and accredited by the King of France in 1779 to succeed Sieur Gerard as Minister to the United States."—From Hon. Edmund Lovell Dana's address before the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society at the Centennial of Luzerne County, September 25, 1885. Printed in Proceedings and Collections of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society for 1900.

He arrived in Philadelphia, September 1st, had his first audience on the 17th of the following November and

Wilkes-Barré has Twelve City Banks—Deposits, \$21,000,000



Savoy Theatre Building
South Side Public Square



W.-B. & H. Railway Co. Station (Third-Rail System)
North Pennsylvania Avenue

“from that time to the end of the war,” says Sparks in his Diplomatic History of the American Revolution, “he applied himself sedulously to the duties of his station, and by the suavity of his manners, as well as the uniform discretion of his official conduct, he won the esteem and gratitude of the American people.”

In 1789, when the Federal Government was organized, Jefferson, the Secretary of State, by order of President Washington, addressed to the Chevalier a letter containing express and official acknowledgment of his services and the sense of them entertained by the nation.

Luzerne County was erected into a separate county from the northern part of Northumberland by Act of 25th September, 1786. Mr. Otto, the French Charge D’Affaires at New York, communicated the fact to his Government



Y. W. C. A. Buildings
N. Franklin Street



Sacred Heart (Slovak) R. C. Church
North Main Street



SECOND NATIONAL BANK



FIRST NATIONAL BANK



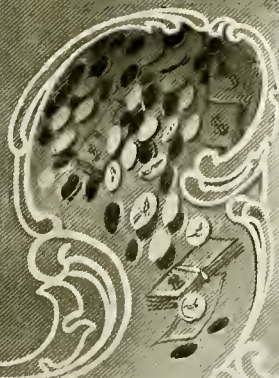
WYOMING VALLEY TRUST CO.



SOUTH SIDE BANK



HEIGHTS BANK



FAHRINGER CO.

Photos by Siegfried

A GROUP OF NEW BANK BUILDINGS

Wilkes-Barre's material prosperity is well evidenced by these banking houses, all erected within a period of five years

Wilkes-Barré has Steam-Size Coal at \$1.25 Per Ton



Residence of Dr. E. U. Buckman
South Franklin Street



Residence of Franck G. Dart
North River Street

in the following dispatch: "The Legislature of Pennsylvania, Sir, wishing to hand down to posterity a testimonial of its gratitude for the services which the Chevalier de la Luzerne rendered to the Union, has just given his name to a new county."

LUZERNE A MOTHER OF COUNTIES

From the county thus created and having originally five thousand square miles of territory there were separated in 1810 a part of Bradford and in 1810 also, Susquehanna, in 1842 Wyoming and in 1878 Lackawanna County.

At the present time, with the county bereft of four-fifths of its original territory, Luzerne is fourteenth in size in the state and **THIRD IN POPULATION**. Luzerne even now has a population greater than that of either of the following states and territories: Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii or New Mexico. Its wealth, gaged by its assessed valuation, is \$160,000,000.00.



Snyder Block, Market Street, Westmoor. A Suburban Residence Property

Wilkes-Barré is the Most Completely Sewered City in the Country



Part of Addition to Wilkes-Barre Lace Mfg. Co. Plant
Courtright Avenue



The Leon-Ferenbach Silk Mill
Hazle and Jones Streets

MAGNIFICENT PUBLIC BUILDING

In Wilkes-Barré, as the county seat, is located a splendid county court house, occupied in 1909 and erected at a cost, furnished, of more than \$2,000,000. This new court house, probably the most magnificent in the country, excepting only those of the great cities, and superior in beauty, size and richness of appointments to a number of the State Capitol buildings, is typical of the new spirit which has worked a regeneration in the city and county in a few short years and to which expression has been given in the erection of handsome and costly buildings, the construction of excellent roads, the purchase by the county and freeing of toll roads and river bridges, the elimination of grade crossings and the extension of business enterprises.

FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

It is the purpose of this booklet to show some of the improvements of this character that have been made DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS. With that idea in view ALL ILLUSTRATIONS ARE LIMITED TO BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN ERECTED DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1905 AND 1910.



The Frigerio Silk Mill (Located at Dorranceton). A Suburban Industrial Concern

Wilkes-Barré is a Great Shopping Centre



Addition to Sheldon Axle Co. Plant
Conyngham Avenue

Other facts will also be presented herein, similar in character to the building figures, in that they all tend to show the marvelous progress which this old and well established city has made within recent years, proving that the vigor of youth is here and that upon the sure foundation



The New Wall Paper Co. Retail Store
South Main Street



Holy Trinity (Lithuanian) R. C. Church
Meade and South Sts. (Under Construction)

which has been laid during the 140 years of its existence, the home builder, the manufacturer, and he who seeks an opportunity for a profitable investment, may alike locate here in security and assurance.



Wilkes-Barre Metal Drawing and Stamping Co. Plant
North Pennsylvania Avenue

Wilkes-Barré's Annual Coal Output is Worth \$12,000,000



The Burdick Apartment House
West Union Street



Lee's Garage, North Pennsylvania Avenue

on a recent visit to Wilkes-Barré, and the truth of his saying had been proved even before he said it, for during the panic months of 1907, when money was at a premium elsewhere, the streams of gold which flowed into Wilkes-Barré, in return for its mineral resources, made it one of the three eastern cities which was able to do business on a cash basis throughout the entire period of financial distress without recourse to clearing house certificates, and even to send its currency to younger

NATURAL RESOURCES GREAT

"Any city which has as an asset a marketable necessity such as you have in your vast beds of anthracite, cannot help but prosper, for money continues to flow in upon you in ceaseless streams from less favored communities." So said former State Treasurer William H. Berry, of Chester, Pa.,



The Quackenbush Co. Storage House
Bennett Street



St. Mary's R. C. Parochial School
South Washington Street

Wilkes-Barré's Credit is Good Anywhere

and professedly more vigorous cities, in order that dire financial calamity might be averted.

WILKES-BARRÉ'S WEALTH IS WORTH AND IT FACES THE FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR.

A STRIKING GROWTH

The rapid growth of Wilkes-Barré during the years of which this publication treats, is most striking when compared with its previous rate of growth and is made more impressive when it is seen that the reports for the current year indicate no sign of a slackening of this spirit of enterprise.



Residence of Henry Lazarus
South Franklin Street



Residence of Paul Dasch, South Franklin Street



Residence of A. F. Wolfe
Terrace and Sheldon Sts.

BUILDING FIGURES SHOW PROGRESS

The building for the first five years of the period of 1900-1910 as compared with the last five years, show values nearly four times as large for the latter period as follows:

1900.....\$ 566,479	1905.....\$1,489,899
1901..... 455,514	1906..... 2,224,833
1902..... 495,880	1907..... 2,486,861
1903..... 550,337	1908..... 1,660,986
1904..... 574,345	1909..... 2,121,234
TOTALS.....\$2,640,555	89,983,813

Much of this value is represented in large banking and business houses but the rate of



Residence of Joseph Leibson
South Franklin Street

Wilkes-Barré's New High School Cost \$350,000



Residence of E. W. Marple
South Franklin Street



Residence of Mrs. George Weaver
South Franklin Street



The Reichard and Rutter Residence
North River Street

increase among the small residence structures, and on these must be estimated the true growth of the city, has kept pace with the larger structures.

New frame residences were constructed during the several years as follows :

June 1, to December 31, 1905.....	178
January 1, to December 31, 1906.....	244
January 1, to December 31, 1907.....	377
January 1, to December 31, 1908.....	283
January 1, to December 31, 1909.....	290
January 1, to June 1, 1910.....	208
	1580

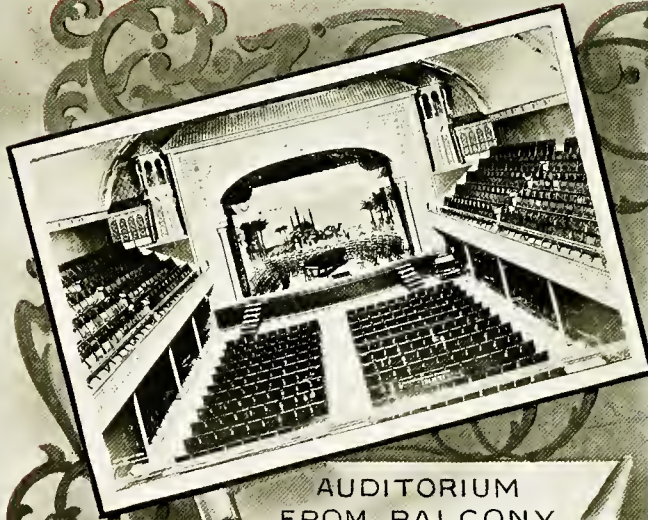


Residence of F. T. McCormick
West River Street

During the same period new brick dwellings were erected as follows :

June 1, to December 31, 1905.....	42
January 1, to December 31, 1906.....	82
January 1, to December 31, 1907.....	80
January 1, to December 31, 1908.....	129
January 1, to December 31, 1909.....	151
January 1, to June 1, 1910.....	74
	558

Within this same five year space additions to the number of 424 and alterations to the number of 308 were made. Of this total of 732 in alterations and additions the building inspector estimates that forty per cent. were for the purpose



AUDITORIUM
FROM BALCONY



IREM TEMPLE
WILKES-BARRE, PA.



ASSEMBLY
HALL.



AUDITORIUM
FROM FOYER



BANQUET HALL

FAHRINGER CO.

Copyright 1909 by J. Horgan, Jr.
Scranton, Pa.

IREM TEMPLE, A. A. O. N. M. S.

Used by Courtesy of Irem Temple

One of the most beautiful buildings of the city is this handsome Shrine Temple with its distinctly Moorish decorations

Wilkes-Barré has an Exceptionally Low Tax Rate

of transforming single houses into double houses or apartments, so that room was thereby made for 292 additional families. The total of 2430 new residences was therefore provided within the city limits during this period. The increase in the number and proportion of brick dwellings built during the past two years is especially gratifying, in that it tends to a depreciation in fire losses. For the five year period it will be noted that the proportion of brick to frame was twenty-three per cent. While for the years 1908 and 1909 the proportion was 31 and 34 respectively.

In addition to buildings of this character there have been erected during the same five year period new fronts for 75 of the city's business places and 307 alterations and additions of different character to as many other business houses. The growth of prosperity indicated by the construction of new store buildings is shown in the following record :

2 in the latter part of 1905	
14 in 1906	31 in 1908
23 in 1907	35 in 1909
22 for the first half of 1910	



E. G. Kemmerer Residence Block, River and Franklin Streets

The building record for the full year, 1910, shows 762 permits with a total valuation of \$2,052,180 as compared with 650 permits in 1909 and a total valuation of \$2,121,234.

Forty-five factory buildings were erected during the same period, nine office buildings with a total of 300 offices, ten hotels and additions to five others; six new school buildings, one costing \$300,000 and another \$100,000 and additions to four others; eight new churches and additions to four others; eight new theatres and six apartment houses. These will serve to indicate Wilkes-Barré's growth in building and pictures of many of these new buildings are shown in this book.

BANKING FIGURES SHOW PROGRESS

Closely allied with the building figures, as indicating the growth of a community, are the banking figures. These show marvelous growth and this in spite of the fact that in suburban territories,

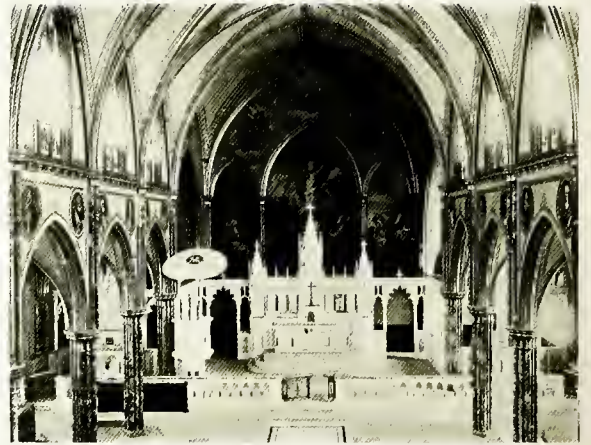
Wilkes-Barré has 65 Churches, Property Value \$2,500,000

immediately tributary to Wilkes-Barré, no less than eight banks have been started during the last five years and are in successful operation. Within the same period also, three new banks have been opened within the city limits and continue in operation and the prosperity of the local institutions is shown by the handsome group of bank buildings pictured in this publication, all of which have been erected since 1905 at a total cost of nearly \$1,000,000.

The eleven city banks in operation on October 1, 1910, (one awaiting completion of building at that time and since opened) had deposits at the time of the last controller's report prior to June 1, 1910, aggregating \$21,917,767.57, while the total resources of these same banks amounted to \$31,806,737.81. At the same time there were on deposit in the fifteen banks in the suburban



The Derr Block, North Main Street



Interior Decoration Holy Savior Church, East End



Naessig Apartment House
Lincoln and Northampton Streets



First Universalist Church
South Main St.

territory within a radius of eight miles of the central city, \$12,570,329.20, which makes a total of over \$34,000,000 in bank deposits in Wilkes-Barré and its immediate environs. This is a showing scarcely equalled in any territory similar in extent and character.

Bank Clearings, too, have shown a healthy growth, as witness the following table showing the clearings for the fiscal years ending March 1st: (The Wilkes-Barré Clearing House Association clears only for banks within the city limits).

1905.....	\$51,897,937.69	1907.....	\$61,660,399.44
1906.....	55,950,473.23	1908 (panic month-)	60,858,440.78
	1909.....		\$66,314,784.59

Wilkes-Barré has Two Public, Three Private Hospitals

Wilkes-Barré suffered less by reason of the panic than any other city. Its rate of decrease in clearings was about ten per cent. less than the average for the balance of the country, and its sharp recovery from panic conditions may be noted in the table.

For the first half of 1910 the monthly clearing house figures were as follows :

January.....	\$ 5,961,472.28
February.....	5,327,384.58
March.....	5,403,812.57
April.....	6,224,267.28
May.....	6,159,887.08
June.....	6,242,989.08
	\$35,319,812.87



Addition to Osterhout Library (Stack Room)
South Franklin Street



The Tischler Block
Market and Hancock Streets



Addition to Home for Friendless Children
South Franklin Street



A Myers Estate Residence Block
Northeast Corner Jackson and Main Streets

That the rate of growth is of a permanent character is shown by the fact that the total clearings for 1910 amounted to \$71,209,767.64.

ASSESSED VALUATIONS SHOW GROWTH

Assessed valuations are usually slow to respond to the increase in real values, but even these show a rapid growth during the past five years, amounting to about 35 per cent. in the aggregate.

Wilkes-Barré's Y. M. C. A. Buildings are Worth \$250,000



The Turner and VanScoy Co. Building
East Northampton Street

The figures for this period are as follows:

1906.....	\$38,404,069
1907.....	45,233,279
1908.....	46,187,913
1909.....	47,356,737
1910.....	52,056,188

The 1911 figures just completed show a total assessed valuation for the city of \$53,185,000.



St. Mary's Greek (R. C.) Church
North Main Street

POSTAL RECEIPTS SHOW GROWTH

Uncle Sam has given semi-official recognition to a greater Wilkes-Barré and the boroughs of Forty Fort, Dorranceton, Luzerne, Kingston, Edwardsville and Ashley and portions of Wilkes-Barré, Hanover and Pringle Townships are served from the Wilkes-Barré office. The postal receipts, like other lines of business, show a healthy growth as indicated by the following table:

1905.....	\$118,029.09
1906.....	126,915.05
1907.....	144,110.40
1908.....	157,655.86
1909.....	165,213.13



Bloom Building, East Northampton Street



No. 8 Fire Engine House, Scott St., East End

Wilkes-Barré's Y. W. C. A. Buildings are Worth \$160,000



The J. B. Carr Biscuit Co. Factory Building
North Pennsylvania Ave. (Under Construction)



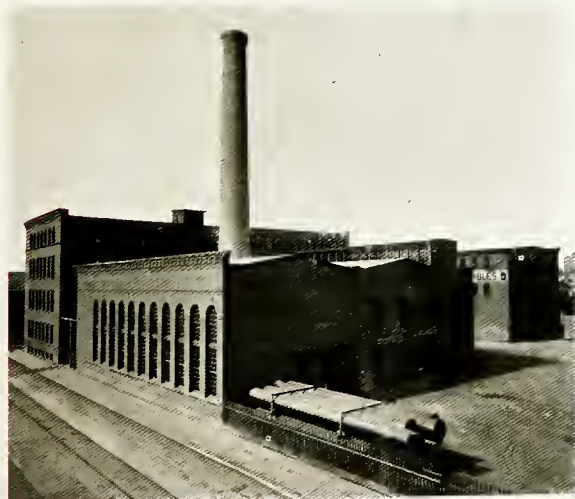
The Samuel Williams Building
East Market Street

ALL FIGURES SERVE ALIKE TO SHOW WILKES-BARRÉ'S HEALTHY GROWTH, WHICH IN THE LIGHT OF ITS AGE MAY BE CONSIDERED REMARKABLE.

MODERN HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

The new high school building now in process of construction will be one of the finest in the state, and like the Court House and Irem Temple, is destined to become one of the show places of the city. Its equipment will be essentially

modern and though the Wilkes-Barré school system already has the reputation of being one of the best in the state, the influence of the new building will be felt for good in the opportunity to enlarge and broaden the curriculum.



Addition to Hazard Manufacturing Co. Plant
Pennsylvania Ave. and Ross St.



The H. B. Schooley Building
North Franklin Street

Wilkes-Barré has a Trading Population of 250,000

FURTHER EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS

Evidences of Wilkes-Barré's little less than remarkable progress, presented in tabloid form, will be found in the following table, summarizing conditions in various lines in 1910 as compared with 1905:

	1910	1905
Miles paved streets.....	29	26
Number of postal employees.....	110	75
Miles of street car lines.....	93	81
Miles of sewers.....	116	98
Number of parks.....	4	1
Park acreage.....	160	35
Number of playgrounds.....	6	0
Number of public school buildings.....	22	20
Number of school rooms.....	218	193
Number of school teachers.....	218	193
Value of public school property..	\$1,203,400	\$595,000
Number of public school pupils..	10,731	9,325
Number of children of school age	12,216	8,799
Number of toll bridges in county	2	6
Number of free bridges in county	*4	0
Number of toll roads in county..	0	4
Pieces of fire apparatus in city..	15	14
Number of paid fireman in city..	43	34
Expenditures for fire protection.	\$59,728.00	\$44,871.50
Expenditures for police protection	\$63,121.00	\$43,255.00
Number of policemen.....	61	52
Volumes in public library.....	42,000	35,500
Coal production in Luzerne Co... .	27,671,702	24,736,864

*Two new free bridges have been ordered constructed by the court and the grand jury has reported favorably on another.

According to the census figures of 1910, Wilkes-Barré was the eighty-first city in the United States as to population. According to building figures compiled from reports of the building departments of the various cities of the country, Wilkes-Barré was fifty-third in order in 1910 in the value of its building permits issued.

LOW BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

Wilkes-Barré is ably handled as to its finances and city expenditures. It has a lower city tax rate than any other city of the state with more than 40,000 population and its bonds always command a good premium. Its bonded indebtedness is \$1,067,000, considerably less than the legal limitation without recourse to a vote of the people and more than \$2,500,000 less than the legal limit of seven per cent. by vote of the people.



Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Co. Office Building
South River Street



The Bell Telephone Co. Building
East Northampton Street



SECOND FLOOR GALLERY



ORPHAN'S COURT ROOM.



THIRD FLOOR GALLERY.



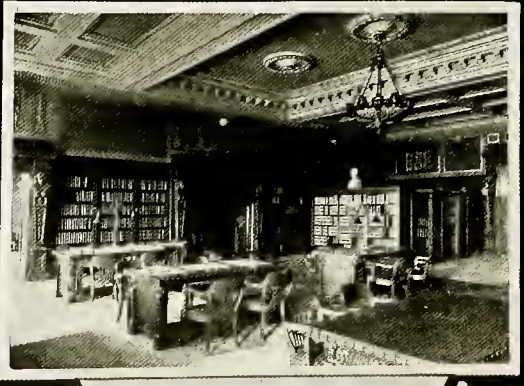
LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE.



ROTUNDA.



FIRST FLOOR LOOKING
ACROSS ROTUNDA.



THE LAW LIBRARY.

FAHRINGER CO.

Wilkes-Barré has an Established Park Commission

AN EFFICIENT FIRE DEPARTMENT

The city has an efficient fire department and is constantly improving its equipment. For new engine houses and new equipment alone the city has expended since 1905 the sum of \$60,000, and among other modern fire-fighting devices has an aerial quick-acting ladder truck, a gasoline fire engine and an automobile chemical wagon.



Clarke Brothers' Retail Store
South Main Street



Luzerne County Brewing Co. Plant
North Pennsylvania Avenue



Joseph S. Rice Building
South Main Street



The Pinsky Residence Block
Madison Street

The following equipment has been added during the period noted:

- One first size Nott Steam Fire Engine
- One Waterous Gasoline Fire Engine
- One Seagrave Aerial Hook and Ladder Truck
- One Combination Auto Chemical Engine
- One Combination Hose and Chemical Wagon
- Two Fire Engine Houses
- Nineteen new Fire Alarm Boxes
- Nine Paid Men

Wilkes-Barré has 160 Acres of Parks

For other city improvements during the same period, including expenditures for new sewers, paved streets, street extensions, etc., there has been expended the sum of \$776,215.70.

GROWTH IN POPULATION

The census figures for 1900 gave Wilkes-Barré a population of 51,721 and for 1910 a



Showing Additions to Stegmaier Brewing Co. Plant
Baltimore and Market Streets



The Burgunder Building, E. Northampton St.



The Molican Co. Retail Store
South Main Street



The Cumberland Apartment House, W. Ross St.

population of 67,105, an increase of 29.7 per cent. during the ten-year period, a record which might well be envied by many a younger city, but the census figures do not by any means do justice to the city's real importance as a commercial and industrial centre.

Wilkes-Barré has Six Well Equipped Playgrounds



Wilkes-Barre Laundry Co. Plant
South Main Street



Hessler Laundry Co. Plant
East South Street

A GREAT TRADING CENTRE

F. M. Kirby & Co. maintain eighty stores in as many different cities in the East, Middle West and South, including such cities as New Orleans, Cleveland, Columbus, Baltimore, Louisville, Charleston, Dayton, etc., and Wilkes-Barré is rated among their other stores as having a trading population of 200,000. Within a radius of eight miles from the city and with every point reached by trolley lines, there are thirty-two towns and townships and one small city, having a combined population with Wilkes-Barré, of 178,923 in 1900. The population of that same territory in 1910 is 245,801, showing a general rate of increase of 37.3 per cent. But even this does not tell the real trading population of the city for every part of the county with its population of 363,000 people is



The Baltimore No. 5 Colliery, D. & H. Co., East End

Write to the Board of Trade for Further Information



P. R. R. Electric Crane, for Handling Heavy Freight



C. R. R. of N. J. Electric Crane, for Handling Heavy Freight

reached either by trolley, steam or third-rail lines, together with portions of adjoining counties for which Wilkes-Barré is the natural market place, being the largest city within easy reach.

JOBGING HOUSES FIND PROFITABLE FIELD

Wilkes-Barré's large suburban population, together with its excellent railroad facilities, makes it an exceedingly strong jobbing centre. Eight railroads, including two third-rail freight-carrying systems, centre in the city. Two steam roads have their termini here. The strategical value of this situation is becoming yearly more apparent and the city is adding yearly to the number of its



The Matheson Automobile Co. Plant (Located at Forty Fort). A Suburban Industrial Concern

Wilkes-Barré's Annual Factory Output is Worth \$17,000,000

jobbing houses. Milling interests are also strong in Wilkes-Barré and vicinity and the city is the headquarters of the oldest and largest milling firm in the state and of the Pennsylvania Millers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. There are one hundred and two wholesale houses in Wilkes-Barré, classified as follows:

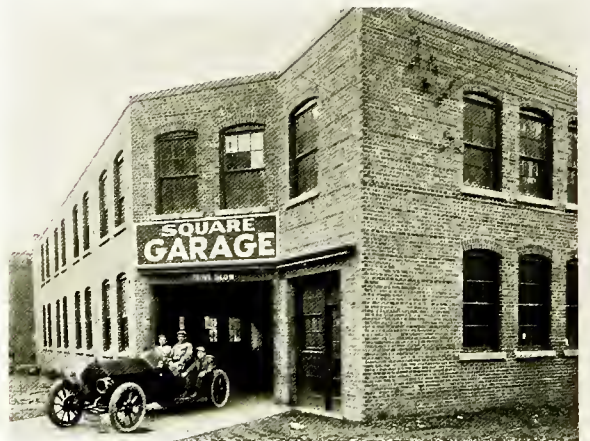
Grocers, 10; Grocers' Specialties, 6; Meats, 7; Dry Goods and Notions, 11; Boots, Shoes and



Mrs. Geo. J. Stegmaier's Residence
South Franklin Street (Under Construction)

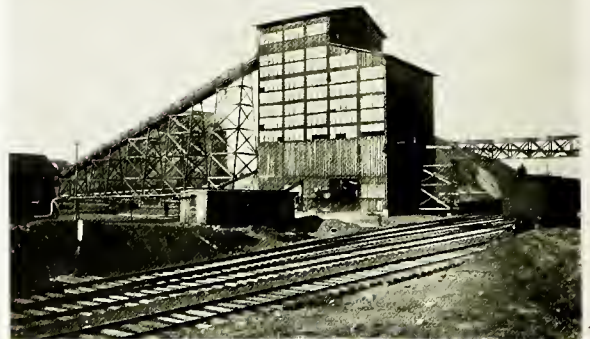


Salvation Army Citadel
South Pennsylvania Avenue



The Square Garage Building
Rear South Side Public Square

Rubbers, 4; Stationery, 2; Produce, 9; Cigars and Tobacco, 11; Confections, 8; Mine Supplies, Hardware, Stoves, Plumbers and Hotel Supplies, 8; Oils, 4; Grain and Hay, 1; Iron and Steel, 1; Wall Paper, 2; Iron Beds, 1; Harness, Trunks, etc., 1; Leather and Findings, 1; Optical Supplies, 1; Furs, 1; Millinery, 1; Lumber, 2; Barber Supplies, 1; Watches and Jewelry, 1; Poultry 1; Druggists' Supplies, 1; Scrap Iron, 1;



Empire Washery, Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Co.

Wilkes-Barré has an Efficient Fire Department



Radnor Apartment House
South Washington St.



Mayock Building
South Washington Street



Pennsylvania R. R. Freight Station
Pennsylvania Ave. and Northampton St.

Electrical Supplies, 2; Crockery, 1; Ice and Coal, 1; Dental Supplies, 1.

Each of these concerns is given a credit rating by R. G. Dun and Company. The list does not include millers nor local manufacturers who handle their own products, although in a sense both are wholesalers. Neither does the list include concerns acting merely as agents for foreign manufacturers, carrying no stock on hand.



Seeherman & Gross Wholesale Store
South Pennsylvania Ave.

It is safe to say that there is scarcely another city in the country with a census population of 67,000, with such a showing of wholesale houses.

MANUFACTURING STATISTICS

There are one hundred and twenty-nine manufacturing plants in Wilkes-Barré City and its environs. In an effort to secure for this publication figures as to the production of these



SCHNEIDER



TERMINAL



POLAND HOUSE



REDINGTON



FLAT IRON



NEW OLD FELL HOUSE



SANDERS

FARRINGER CO.

Photos by Stegfried

A GROUP OF HOTEL BUILDINGS

Showing how Wilkes-Barre has added to its accommodation for travelers during the past five years

Wilkes-Barré is Superbly Located for Jobbing

plants, the number of employes, etc., letters were sent out asking that replies be returned on blanks enclosed for that purpose. Forty-three replies were received and these, just one-third of the entire number, showed the following:

Capital	\$ 8,307,600.00
Value of Plants and Equipment	9,753,540.00
Value of Annual Production	17,299,910.00
Annual Pay-Roll	3,550,715.00
Number of Employes for Full Production,	8,072



Laurel Silk Mill, South Empire Street

historic Wyoming Valley, surrounded by mountains which afford a cool retreat in the heat of the summer and concealed behind which is a rich farming country which is fast being developed as a centre for summer homes.

Glen Summit, a far-famed summer resort, is situated on the mountain just above the city, reached by both the Lehigh Valley and Central Railroads and by a beautiful mountain boulevard constructed at a cost of nearly \$200,000. On this same mountain also is located Nuangola Lake, a small body of water but beautifully situated and rapidly growing in favor as an exclusive and yet inexpensive summer colony.



Kirby Building, South Main Street

ANTHRACITE MINING PREMIER INDUSTRY

The above figures do not include the Anthracite mining industry, which is of course the premier industry of the city and valley. There are about 8,000 coal mining employes in the city alone and about 80,000 in the county.

AS A RESIDENCE CITY

Wilkes-Barré is a delightful residence city, situated as it is in the heart of the beautiful and



Williams Bros. & Co. Wholesale House
South Pennsylvania Avenue

Wilkes-Barré is Served by Eight Railroads



The Bennett Garbage Disposal Co. Plant
South Wilkes-Barre

This place is reached by the Wilkes-Barré and Hazleton Railway, third rail system.

Back of the mountains to the west of the valley lies Harvey's Lake, the largest body of water in the state. This too is a favorite summer resort. It is reached both by electric and steam

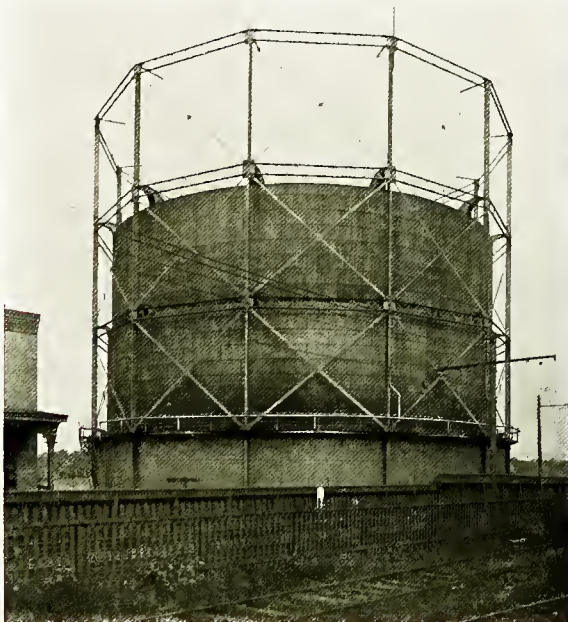
railroads and at this place are located several hundred cottages of Wilkes-Barréans who spend their summers at this attractive resort. Train service to each of these places makes it possible for the summer dwellers to live there during the



Bennett & Phelps Block
North Main Street



Addition to City Hospital (Nurses' Home)
North River Street



Massive Gas Tank of The Wilkes-Barre Co.
Water Street

summer months and travel back and forth from the city daily. Harvey's Lake is surrounded by a State built macadam highway which makes automobiling about it a pleasure. Picnic grounds maintained by the railroads make of the spot a

Wilkes-Barré has an Endowed Free Public Library

popular excursion point. In the intervening territory between the city and the lake there is a large farming region which is being rapidly taken up by city residents and utilized as a convenient place for a country home, and indeed many, by reason of the excellent trolley service provided



Residence of J. C. Bridgman
West River Street



Addition to Y. M. C. A. Boys' Building
North Washington Street (Taken from Rear)

all the year round are beginning to make this region their place of residence during the entire year.

The city itself is an attractive place for a home. It is an old city and consequently well improved. Its proportion of paved streets is



No. 7 Fire Engine House
Lockhart and St. Clement Streets

large and it is more completely sewered than any city of similar size in the country. A comprehensive park system is now being developed, playgrounds have been in operation for several years, it has a river front which for real beauty is not exceeded by that of any similar community



Spring Brook Water Supply Co. Office Building
N. Franklin St. (Under Construction)

This Book Shows Only Five Years' Growth



O. W. Nelson Building, North Main Street

in the country, and the entire front is owned by the city and is in process of improvement by the city's Park Commission. Because of the enormous building expansion in recent years rents are maintained at a reasonable figure, and the rates of rent and general cost of living are no higher proportionately than elsewhere. The retail stores of



Additions to Mercy Hospital
Hanover Street

Wilkes-Barré have long held an enviable reputation for modernity and straightforwardness in their dealings and they do a great amount of business, although this is naturally to be expected when one takes into consideration the amount of territory which is tributary commercially to Wilkes-Barré.

The public school system of the city is exceptionally fine, and the city superintendent, because of his reputation made here, has been honored by an appointment on the State Commission to codify the school laws of the state, and significant it is that this new code provides



W. A. King & Co. Bakery, Dyer Lane



Residence of W. S. Goff
Hanover Street

Come and See the Growth of 140 Years



New High School Building
North Washington Street (Under Construction)

for the election of only a small number of directors at large in each municipality, a system which Wilkes-Barré already enjoys. In addition to the public schools there are numerous parochial schools, private schools for young men and women, and business colleges, while just across the river, in the town of Kingston, is located an old and well established preparatory school, the Wyoming Seminary. In the city also is located St. Ann's Academy, a German Catholic Convent School for girls, which has students from all over the United States, and which, because of its excellence, draws many local students of other faiths. Within easy reach of the city, too, are two State



H. F. Mooney Building, South Washington St.

Normal Schools, which make a specialty of the training of teachers for the public schools.

The city is surrounded by a number of residence communities of more than the usual suburban attractiveness. These have enjoyed a most remarkable growth during the last few years. A movement is now under way to



Miriam Apartment House, North Main Street



A Myers Estate Residence Block
Southwest Corner Jackson and Main Streets

Wilkes-Barré's Advantages for Manufacturing are Many



Crane Brothers' Silk Mills (Located at Kingston). A Suburban Industrial Concern

consolidate several of these communities with the city, thus making of it a GREATER WILKES-BARRÉ, with a population of about 150,000 in an area of a little more than twenty square miles.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

The city's park and playground system has made rapid advances during the five years of which this brochure treats. This is under the direction of a Park Commission, a non-partisan body elected by the city councils. This Park Commission was formed in 1906 and has done most effective work since that time. Armed with the proceeds of a small tax levy the Commission has beautified the city's river front, for the front boundary of the city is formed by the beautiful Susquehanna river, and has extended the park system to other portions of the city. When the Commission first took charge of the work the city had but one park, the river common, which had been reserved as a public common when the city was laid out. Since that time three parks have been added in as many different parts of the city, and others are projected. The beautification of the river common



The Adler Machine Co. Plant (Located at Kingston). A Suburban Industrial Concern



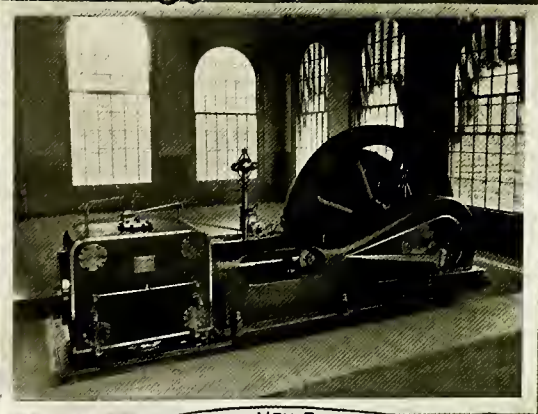
NEW ELECTRIC TRAVELING CRANE



ADDITION TO HAZLE AVE LOCOMOTIVE SHOPS



NEW SAND HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



INTERIOR OF NEW ENGINE ROOM SHOWING VULCAN ENGINE



NEW ADDITION TO BLACKSMITH SHOP



NEW STABLES AND SHEDS



ADDITION TO POWER PLANT

FAHRINGER CO

Photos by Axel Bennett

ADDITIONS TO VULCAN IRON WORKS

This series of views depicts the rapid extension during the last five years of one of Wilkes-Barre's big industrial concerns

Wilkes-Barré Is a Favorite Convention City



The Stafford & Trainor Building
South Main Street



Residence of Dr. N. L. Schappert
South Washington Street

has effected a transformation in the appearance of that section of the city, and generous gifts of park areas, just outside the city limits, have provided breathing spaces which will be well utilized and greatly appreciated in the years to come. Five years' progress in this line shows the number of parks increased from one to four, the acreage increased from thirty to one hundred and sixty, the number of playgrounds increased from none to six and the amount of money expended annually for park purposes increased from nothing to about \$25,000 annually.



The Reynolds Residence Block, Sambourne Street

Wilkes-Barré is a Delightful Residence City

GOOD MANUFACTURING LOCATION

From the standpoint of the manufacturer, Wilkes-Barré is most admirably located, situated as it is, in the very heart of the anthracite coal mining region. Coal admirably adapted for steam purposes is mined at several collieries within the city limits and hundreds in the valley and country contiguous to the city, and can be procured at a very low figure. Each one of these collieries is reached by connections from some one of the six railroads that enter the valley, so



City Police Station, North State Street
(Under Construction)

Pennsylvania to Pittsburg and the Erie to both New York and western points.

The great markets provided by New York and Philadelphia are located within about 200 miles of the city, while the great northeastern Pennsylvania market is at the very door of the city.



The Planters' Peanut Co. Factory Building
South State Street

that switching facilities can be provided at almost any point either within or without the city limits. These railroads furnish adequate transportation also with direct transit to all points of the compass.

The Delaware & Hudson has a direct line to the New England States and Canada by way of Albany, the Lehigh Valley and Central and Lackawanna run to New York, the Lehigh Valley and Lackawanna to Buffalo, the Central, Lehigh Valley and Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, the



A Myers Estate Block, South Main Street

Wilkes-Barré is a Centre of Scenic Beauty



Luzerne Theatre Entrance
South Main Street



The Whiteman Shoe and Rubber Co. Wholesale House
North Washington Street

Labor is plentiful. The anthracite mining industry alone employs 167,000 men. The great majority of these are immigrants, and their children, born in this country and educated in the public schools, are turning from the mines to the factories, and proving themselves exceptionally apt students along mechanical lines. Several factories, which have come to the city with a few skilled workmen, have developed hundreds of skilled mechanics for their own use from the purely local labor supply, and are achieving success because of it.

The three requisites of successful manufacturing—cheap fuel, a good labor supply and adequate transportation facilities, are here supplied, and the record of growth made by some of the local industries which have trained their own help, during the last few years, has been remarkable.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

The Wilkes-Barré Board of Trade has been in existence since 1883, and its charter was granted by the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, at the May term in 1884, by President Judge Chas. E. Rice, now a member of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and still a resident of Wilkes-Barré. The Board has always taken an active interest in public affairs, and has originated or assisted in carrying to a successful issue, many matters of prime importance to the community. A movement is now under way to enlarge the scope and broaden the activities of the organization, giving full recognition to the fact that it is not alone a commercial organization, but that its influence, as a medium through which public opinion may be expressed, should be great. This fact is clearly expressed in the proposed new constitution, which states that the object of the organization shall be "to inculcate just and equitable principles in trade, to establish and maintain uniformity in commercial usages, to acquire, preserve and disseminate valuable information, to educate and stimulate public sentiment and encourage action on matters affecting the general welfare, and to adjust controversies and misunderstandings in business between members of the Chamber."

Wilkes-Barré is a Centre of Historical Interest

The Board of Trade is generally looked upon as a promoter of industrial enterprise, and Wilkes-Barré's Board of Trade has had considerable to do with the upbuilding of Wilkes-Barré's industries, as is indicated by the fact that the Sheldon Axle Works, the city's largest industrial enterprise, employing now about 2,200 men, was brought to the city originally by the Board of Trade, while the Wilkes-Barré Lacey Manufacturing Company, an industry employing nearly 1,500 hands, and the largest concern of its kind in the country, together with other industrial concerns, was brought to the city through Board of Trade efforts.

The most recent example of the activity of the Board of Trade in this particular line is indicated in the removal to this city, from Holyoke, Mass., of the plant of the Matheson Automobile Company. This concern was brought to Wilkes-Barré within the five year period of which this publication treats, and in addition to erecting the commodious factory building which is pictured elsewhere in this issue, and greatly enhancing real estate values in the vicinity of the plant through the demand for houses for its employees, the concern employed an average of 474 hands last year, and since its coming to Wilkes-Barré, has paid out the huge sum of \$943,000.00 in wages.

The Board of Trade also originated and conducted the Centennial Jubilee in 1906, which celebration served to develop civic pride wonderfully, and helped place the city "on the map" through the publicity given to it. As an incident of that celebration, the first automobile hill climb up Giant's Despair was held. This hill climb has since been conducted as an annual affair by the Wilkes-Barré Automobile Club, and has been developed into an event of national importance.

The Board's influence has been felt in much state legislation, and it was represented on the "Joint Committee on Election Code of Pennsylvania," through whose activities the Personal Registration and Uniform Primaries Laws were framed and enacted. The Board of Trade's protest



Addition to Armour & Co.'s Wholesale House
South Pennsylvania Avenue



Entrance to Poli Theatre
South Main Street

Wilkes-Barré's Board of Trade is a Consistent Booster



The Hoover Group of Residence Blocks, South Main Street

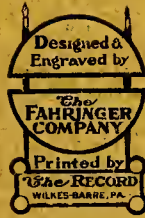
against the creation of a new county was also successful, and locally the Board took a prominent part in such matters as the new court house question, the creation of park and shade tree commissions, etc.

The Board has met with hearty co-operation on the part of city councils, and the two organizations work in harmony in many projects. In fact, the Board of Trade is supplied with office headquarters in the City Hall by resolution of councils.

The recital of some of the achievements of the past only serve to set a high mark for the future, and under the enlargement of its scope of activities as proposed by the new constitution, and through the process of reorganization which it is now undergoing, the immediate future promises great success.



Group of Residences on Park Place, Dorranceton. A Suburban Residential Section. All built within five years



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Wilkes-Barre, the diamond city; a study



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